Comments of leader of Dukhtarani Milat Aishya Andrabi regarding Kashmiri Pandits

4296. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the leader of the Dukhtarani Milat Aishya Andrabi has told the Press that Kashmiri Pandits have to come back to Kashmir only when they are ready to live under Nazami Mustafa otherwise they shall have to stay out;

(b) whether Government agree to this view; and

(c) if not, what action has been taken against this leader under the law of the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Government has not come across any such statement of Aishya Indrabi of "Dukhteran-e-Millet" regarding return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Landmine Explosion by Hizbul Muzahideen in Anantnag

4297. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the top Pakistan based militant outfit Hizbul Muzahideen had claimed responsibility for a landmine explosion in Anantnag in Kashmir in the month of December, 2000, that killed 5 Indian soldiers and injured 12;

(b) whether Government are also aware that they have threatened to carry out such more attacks in days to come; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A powerful landmine exploded in Anantnag on 28.11.2000 in which 5 Indian soldiers died. The Chief and other leaders of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) have been frequently threatening to intensify their attacks on Indian Security Forces and their camps.

(c) Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan sponsored cross border terrorism. With a view to deal with the cross border terrorism the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the terrorists by appropriate action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional framework of Operational Groups and Intelligence Groups at the UHQ and lower levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for Security Forces, closer vigil on the border, establishment of more naka parties in depth areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, police pickets, intensive patrolling etc.

Security forces have also worked out a strategy for the renewed or extended period of the peace initiative. Such strategies are reviewed from time to time in meetings of the unified Headquarters or at lower levels in J&K keeping in mind the changing security scenario and available intelligence inputs.

Turning down of unilateral talks with India by APHC Leader

4298. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether leader of All Party Hurriyat Conference Abdul Ghani Lone has turned down any unilateral talks with India on the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) All Party Hurriyat Conference has reportedly not yet decided about its stand on the Government's offer of dialogue.